

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

The second regular meeting of February 2019 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg at 9:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

PRESENT: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini; Chief Clerk Orben; Assistant Solicitor Ohliger.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

Motion: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the February 20, 2019 Agenda.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the February 6, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the February 6 and February 14, 2019 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$202,579.74**, subject to further review.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **CIARRA RIGG** as a full time Dispatcher for the Communication Center, for a 40 hour work week, effective March 11, 2019, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Motion: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids received for the Interior Renovations to Existing Building at 175 Pike County Boulevard for I.C.E. New Weapons/Ammo Storage Room.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Assistant Solicitor Ohliger opened the following bids: Grimm Construction - \$78,415 and L.R. Costanzo Co - \$98,049. The first bid opened was from L.R. Costanzo and includes a proposal to bid, bond with a surety agreement from Liberty Mutual Insurance and a Non-Disclosure Affidavit. Current projects listed. Completed projects listing a summary equipment list and biography/CV of each of the officers of the company. The bid amount is \$98,049. The second bid opened was from Grimm Construction and includes a proposal, statement of bidder qualifications and a bond secured by Liberty Mutual Insurance for 10% as the other one. The amount from Grimm Construction is \$78,415.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the bids received for the Interior Renovations to Existing Building at 175 Pike County Boulevard for I.C.E. New Weapons/Ammo Storage Room for review until March 6, 2019.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Secondary Market Disclosure Procedures designed to monitor compliance with disclosure obligations.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the PCCD Subgrant Award Notification for the Victim/Witness Program RASA/VOJO Grant in the amount of \$133,763 on behalf of the District Attorney's office.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Comprehensive Health Services Agreement between PrimeCare Medical and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Affordable Housing Fund Payment Voucher for the County's yearly 15% administration for Act 137 fees in the amount of \$22,888.13, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Penn State Extension – March 1-15, 2019 Events.
- Mike Sullivan, Economic Development Authority, and Cindy DeFebo, Workforce Development Authority – Job Fair April 16, 2019

Cindy DeFebo from Workforce Development Authority announced the Fourth Annual Working Pike Job Fair scheduled for April 16, 2019 at Best Western-Hunt's Landing from 10AM – 3PM. There are thirty employers already signed up with minimal effort. We do expect seventy employers as we did last year-our maximum capacity. Mike Sullivan pointed out they only are charging \$55.00 for each table for an employer to come and talk to people. When we started out, the big issue was so many people were looking for jobs. Now, the table has changed and employers are looking for employees. It is a very dramatic change in four years. The \$55.00 collected goes to advertising, our sponsors: The Pike County Dispatch, Lackawanna College Lake Region Center, and Bold Gold Media Group. Best Western gives us a discount on the room for the day. We are having for the first time this year a Reverse Job Fair. The job seeker sets up a table rather than the employer setting up the table and the employers come to them. We will have adults with special needs setting up tables where employers will have the opportunity to go to them and interview them at the table. They will be dressed and ready to be interviewed. This will be done right before the job fair starts at 10AM, from 9AM – 10AM in the Garden Room. This is being coordinated with Fitzmaurice and Workforce Development. There will be workshops in advance of the Job Fair and we will have resume workshops to critique resumes. We will also have resume service the day of the job fair at Lackawanna College Enrichment Center. Our staff will also be on hand to do resumes the day of the event.

Commissioner Osterberg added that the board members from HRC and the Commissioners stress the fact that there are individuals out there with disabilities that need employment. In the County we have something called the Small Workforce which is orchestrated by and facilitated through HRC. Individuals with disabilities come in here and clean our facility. Now that we have the new Courthouse, we need to expand on that workforce. This will be an interesting way to go about this. Owners of businesses can understand that there are individuals out there with disabilities but they can provide a service for them and they are excited to work.

Mike Sullivan announced that there are two companies that are looking at Pike County. They will be present at the job fair as a gauge as to the availability of wages. This is a very big issue for us - being able to always prove that we have people who are qualified and interested in jobs. You are starting to see an increase in wages, fairly dramatically. At this point, New York has adopted the \$15.00 an hour minimum wage and really, we don't have to pass the regulation, because the same forces are really influencing jobs in Pennsylvania as well as New York. It's a very good situation.

- Bernie Swartwood, Communications Director, and Tim Knapp, EMA Director – Communications and Training Center highlights.

Communications Director Bernie Swartwood announced that we just completed our third year having the Department of Public Safety. Three years ago the Commissioners combined the 911 Center, the EMA Department and the Training Center under one umbrella and brought the three departments together. This past year, 2018, was probably the busiest and I think we've gotten the most accomplished of the three years. I think our biggest event that we had in 2018 was the March 2nd storm that impacted the entire County. Roads were closed, power outages and things such as that. We learned a lot from that event. We've had several after-action reports and meetings after that. We've taken some steps to improve some things. It proved to be another year where we increased our 911 calls, almost by 2,000 calls per year, over 2017. Calls for EMS, Fire and Police also increased. We also completed major upgrades on our interconnectivity of all of our tower sites. A lot of that equipment were 25 years old or even a little bit older than that. We have replaced or upgraded a lot of that equipment. This will take the County for another 25 years. We built a new tower in Blooming Grove Township that was completed in the summertime of 2018. We have also established new radio towers in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania State Police in Delaware Township. That has helped fire and EMS coverage in Delaware Township and the lower part of Dingman Township along Route 209 and the upper part of Lehman Township. We also upgraded our telephone system. We've been in the 911 Center for six years this past fall and the equipment, a lot of it can get refreshed. The phone system was upgraded in 2018 and the radio consoles will be done the 2nd Quarter of this year. We are also looking at updating our text to 911. That is a feature we turned on in late 2014. It came in as a basic text to 911. The new system is going to get an upgrade to text to 911 right into the phone system itself. It will then allow maps to populate right on our existing maps and then to our computer and dispatch in a more seamless manner. The latest

in grade is what they call NextGen911 System. The upgrading to the radio system will happen this year. Regarding location services for wireless-we get the location information from the wireless carrier. If you dial 911 from your cell phone, it goes through the towers and each of the carriers has a different way of presenting that information. They use GPS, triangulation of the towers or a combination. Each of the carriers uses their own technology. It works pretty good for the most part, but every once in a while the calls are not as accurate as we would like them to be. The landlines still give us the physical address and that always is the best. It is not relying on a lot of technology, it's in an embedded database. If you're calling from your cell phone from your residence, we have an issue there-please give the dispatcher the address because we can't always rely on the accuracy of a wireless call. Again, if you give us the physical address than we can cross reference that into the database and exactly pinpoint it. Obviously, if something were to happen out in the middle of woods or State Gamelands, we have to rely on the accuracy of those wireless carriers. In the future, we will have this supplemental, wireless, location service. The FCC has been after the wireless carriers to try to increase the accuracy of that information. The State 911 Fund is being used to fund this and text to 911 project. The State collects all of the 911 funds and then they disburse it back to the County and they also keep a pot of money for the State for specialty projects, interconnectivity projects and things such as that. This money for the text to 911 and location services are coming out of the State's 15% money. It will not impact our normal operating funds that we have.

Tim Knapp announced that last year's hours superseded the year before for the Training Center which we continue to see every year from the year before. We do track everybody that comes through the door, whether they're taking a babysitting class or taking a fire safety class-we do have good numbers on there. There is really not a day that someone isn't training at the facility. A highlight from last year was we were able to add on to our professional certification program, we currently have five disciplines we can teach at a professional level now. This year we are adding three more disciplines to that level, so there will be eight disciplines. We are working with the school districts to try to incorporate a program into their system. We have taken tours and looked at facilities. We have called this project "Working on a Solution".- if we can put twenty-five to thirty kids from the school districts in a career tech center at an academy that's already built. The other part we love is - if we take 30 kids from our 3 school districts and put them in that program, it's a requirement in the application process that they have to be involved and embedded into an Emergency System operating in the County. We would be adding 30 more responders into the system. We are excited to see where this goes, as are the school districts. There is one particular program that we like and they offer at graduation a three-year program with 60 college credits and job ready in 50 States. We are going forward with that. This is our fifth year inspection of our facility, that is a NFPA, National Fire Protection Association, required inspection. We are getting everything prepared for that. We have been repeatedly asked for a cheaper EMT class and, after all the work over the last year and a half, we are now able to offer a class at less than half the cost of the previous one. Same certification, less cost. We expect big numbers in this class. We have taken a lot of certifications ourselves and offering a lot more programs in-house. We are held to a ten-person standard for a class-it is a State requirement-we do not have to follow that same program. If we have three people and they need their certifications-we will do three people. We also have our recruit class going on now. That an entry level class for the fire service. There are probably about nineteen people in that class. We look forward to that class when it finishes up. They will be testing for National Professional Certification in June. We are also working with the National Parks Service and they want involvement in a Code Red System (our 911 system gets a call for the emergency responders, it not only feeds that to our third party vendors, but we also spill that information out to Code Red) so we have had meetings with them. We are sending someone down on Friday and sit down with them and their people. We are also working with the Holy Trinity Church Center to open up a shelter there because we have a shortage of shelters. The Training Center will be taking part in the State Spring Weather exercise on March 26th from 9AM to 3:30PM. It's a huge weather exercise they do in the whole State. It will be interested to see how it works and it is open to everyone.

Commissioner Osterberg addressed how the 911/Training Center is constantly looking for new technology to keep us safe. When we live in a rural community like this, it is so important. We all are looking at the papers to see what's going on the EMS Services and volunteerism, but it is the people at the Training/911 Center that make sure we all stay safe. Just recently, Bernie Swartwood and I attended a CCAP Break-Out Session, which is a committee looking at this whole issue with ambulance services, particularly in this State, and what the answers and recommendations are going to be to try to circumvent some of those issues that are occurring. Some of them may be some sort of tax credit for people who are volunteering. Another would be a change in the way training occurs without reducing training. We are already training locally and before that people would have to go everywhere which is a great deal of time and effort. The other side of this is that there is a money issue to keep these services going. Part of the recommendations is what you're hearing from Pike County is that making a partnership between the County and the Townships. Not to say EMS Service will become a County obligation, but it would be more of a partnership to help these smaller municipalities be able to accommodate the dollars to pay for these services. In the future, I believe that this is where we are going, is that people will have to be paid more and more to do these services to protect all of us. There will be a meeting with the schools soon to talk about expanding some training at the schools with every high school: Delaware Valley, Wallenpaupack and East Stroudsburg. That was part of the recommendations of SR-6, that we are looking at how to get younger training volunteers and get the youth involved.

Commissioner Guccini added that this upgrade to the system that we've been talking about-the money is coming from the State pot of money, not our regular pot. None of that money is direct taxpayer money, but the notion that we are going to have our own pot of money with more in it (because the State is paying for it) is a big deal. These guys are geniuses at finding money! Also, we have had the first of five meetings at the Training Center for the Re-Entry Coalition that has been forming. All the facilities are there, the meeting room itself, the technology we need for presentations-it is a real great facility. As we move forward with this you will learn more and I believe a press

release will be done about this. We would like to have a formal coalition that will involve governmental agencies and private non-profits to transition people who are about to be discharged from a correctional facility into the community in terms of jobs, interviews, drug and alcohol follow-up services and a whole host of things. There are twenty-six County Re-Entry Coalitions throughout the State. We have received a grant through PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) to hire a consultant. When I mentioned to them who our consultant was, they were in agreement that she is the best. I want to point out two things that came out of the meeting yesterday. One of the things that the consultant wanted was a brief presentation by both the Pike County Correctional Facility and the Probation Department on procedures, statistics and demographics. Both of those departments did a stellar job in coming up with packets that people can have and look at the statistics that they have on who is incarcerated, what is our recidivism rate, etc. Our consultant has stated that, doing this around the entire state, our correctional facility is particularly light-years ahead of most of the other facilities in terms of the programs they already have. The Correctional Department and the Probation Department really deserve kudos for the job they are doing. Thank you!

PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Question: Under "Old Business", the new Weapons/Ammo Storage Room-does that mean the new room or new weapons? The Commissioners clarified that it means new room. This is ICE, it is Federal and they are requiring this. This is in the second building right outside the jail on the property. It is their weapon room.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.